

Application No.: 10/005,627**Docket No.: JCLA6897****In the Drawings**

Please amend Fig. 4 as shown in the attached replacement sheet. In this amendment, a slot 14 and reference numbers 16/161/161a/161b/162/163 are added for clear showing. It is believed that this amendment does not introduce new matters. A marked copy of the amended Fig. 4 is also enclosed herewith to show the changes made.

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REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The Office Action rejected all presently-pending claims 1-6 and 8-16. Specifically, the Office Action rejected claims 8-13 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Fan (US 6,665,736, hereinafter "Fan"), in view of Taguchi (US 6,480,030, hereinafter "Taguchi"). The Office Action also rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fan and Taguchi, and further in view of Takagi (US 6,356,096, hereinafter "Takagi"). After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-6 and 8-16 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested. These amendments are specifically described hereinafter. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application.

Discussion of Claim Rejections-35 USC 112

The Office Action rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly define the invention. Applicants have also modified Fig. 4 and the specification.

It is believed that the above amendment overcomes the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection.

Discussion of Rejections on claims 8-13 and 15-16 under 35 USC 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 8-13 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Fan, in view of Taguchi.

The combination of Fan with Taguchi is submitted to be improper because neither Fan nor Taguchi suggest such a combination, and one skilled in the art would have no reason to make such a combination.

It is well established at law that, for a proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious based upon a combination of references, (1) there must be some suggestion or

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motivation; and (2) the cited combination of references must disclose, teach, or suggest, either implicitly or explicitly, all elements/features/steps of the claim at issue.

It is obvious that a skilled person would not have the motivation to combine Fan and Taguchi to obtain the Claim 8 with power conservation because Fan did not disclose any suggestion or motivation for power conservation. So, a skilled person would not know how to combine Fan with Taguchi. Therefore, in legal concept, the combination of Fan and Taguchi is improper. Further, in Fan, power conservation is not inherent because Fan directs to a computer motherboard capable of selectively using various memories.

Applicants submitted the cited combination of references does not disclose, teach, or suggest, either implicitly or explicitly, all elements of the claims at issue.

Independent claim 8 is allowable for at least the reason that the combination of Fan in view of Taguchi does not disclose, teach, or suggest each and every limitation in claim 8 above. More specifically, claim 8 includes a plurality of termination resistor. However, in Fan and Taguchi, only a single termination resistor is disclosed and there was insufficient evidence to show that a single termination is the same as a plurality of termination resistor. In Claim 8, a plurality of termination resistor is used to suppress signal reflection from a plurality signal terminals of the memory module and accordingly, a single termination resistor cannot achieve the above function.

Secondly, in Claim 8, a controller chip set provides a control signal to the switch to control ON/OFF of the switch. But in Page 3 of this Final Office Action, neither Fan's north bridge 301 nor Taguchi's input buffer 23 does not disclose a controller chip set signal which is capable of providing a control signal to the switch. It is advised that there was a wrong description in Taguchi's Column 6 Lines 9-10 because it is obvious, from Fig. 3 of Taguchi, a control signal LP is provided from an MPU 24, not an input buffer and an input buffer would not have a function of sending out a control signal for controlling the switch. Although the transistors 32/33/34/35 of Fig. 3 in Taguchi correspond to switch means and termination resistance, but Taguchi does not clearly disclose the connection between the switch and the

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termination resistor. Therefore, the combination of Fan and Taguchi does not make claim 8 obvious.

Further, neither Fan nor Taguchi discloses how the control signal commands the switch to cut off the connection between the termination resistor and the voltage when the memory module is not inserted in the memory module slot (a limitation of claim 8). It is advised that a power saving mode is not always the same as an empty memory module slot mode and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Because independent claim 8 is allowable over the prior art of record, its dependent claims 9-12 are allowable as a matter of law, for at least the reason that these dependent claims contain all features/elements of their respective independent claim 8.

As for another independent claim 13, similarly, neither Fan nor Taguchi disclose that, when the memory module slot is not inserted with the memory module, a control signal is used to cuff off a connection between the memory module and the operation. And still again, Fan does not disclose or provide motivation about power conservation and accordingly therefore a skilled person would not have a motivation to combine Fan, which does not disclose power conservation, with Taguchi, which discloses power conservation, to obtain the claim 13 with power conservation. Consequently, the combination of Fan in view of Taguchi does not render claim 13 obvious, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Because independent claim 13 is allowable over the prior art of record, its dependent claims 14-16 are allowable as a matter of law, for at least the reason that these dependent claims contain all features/elements of their respective independent claim 13.

Discussion of rejections on claims 1-6 under 35 USC 103(a)

Similarly, neither Fan nor Taguchi disclose a termination array including a plurality of switches and a plurality of termination resistors and they just only disclose a configuration of one single termination resistor and one single switch. Besides, none of these references discloses how to cut off connections between termination resistors and a memory module slot before a

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memory module is inserted into the memory module slot. Again, Fan does not disclose any power conservation, so a skilled person would not have a motivation to combine these references to obtain Claim 1.

Consequently, the combination of these references does not render claim 1 obvious, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Because independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record, its dependent claims 2-6 are allowable as a matter of law, for at least the reason that these dependent claims contain all features/elements of their respective independent claim 1.

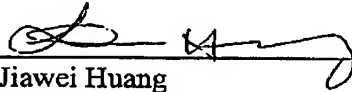
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated., and that the now pending claims 1-6 and 8-16 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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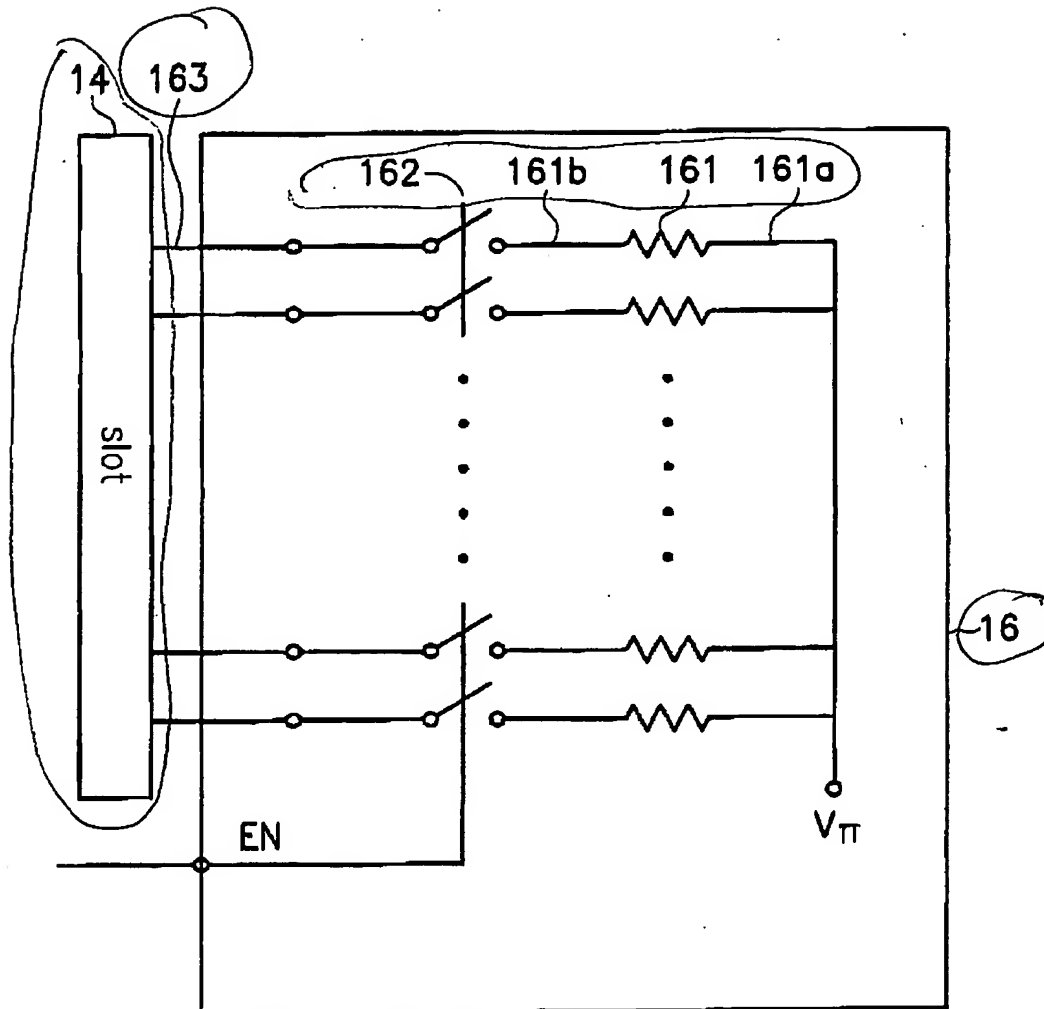


FIG. 4